1946

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Loyola College
Montreal Canada

GOLDEN JUBILEE CONVOCATION
June 3rd, 1946

RECTOR'S REPORT

Your Excellency the Governor-General, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Ladies and Gentlmen:

Loyola is honoured this evening in having with us Canada's 17th Governor-General, His Excellency, Viscount Alexander of Tunis and Errigal. We are happy to welcome Visccunt Alexander as the representative of His Majesty the King; happy also to welcome him for himself, for what he is, for what he has done and for what his presence can mean to Canada throughout the next five years. May I express our warm appreciation, Sir, for your presence at our Golden Jubilee Convocation this evening, our sincere thanks for your gracious willingness to share the fruit of your experience and wisdom with our young men who will soon graduate.

We are grateful to His Excellency, Archbishop Charbonneau, for celebrating this morning, our Solemn Mass of thanksgiving for fifty years of blessings and favours received from Almighty God; and to His Excellency, Bishop Whelan for his splendid Baccalaureate Sermon.

We are fortunate in having with us our two Canadian Jesuit Provincials, Very Reverend John L. Swain,S.J. and Very Reverend Antonio Dragon,S.J.; two of three surviving former Rectors of Loyola, Father William H. Hingston,S.J. and Father Hugh McCarthy,S.J.; and may I mention especially our joy in having again on our Loyola Faculty and with us this evening, the sole living member of Loyola's first Staff of 1896, Father John Cox,S.J.

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And in our welcome we include all of you, our loyal friends and distinguished guests who are gathered here to do honour to His Excellency the Governor-General, to Loyola and to our Class of 1946.

Jubilee: Loyola celebrates this year the Fiftieth Anniversary of its foundation. The history of the College and of its various activities is adequately told in the 1946 Edition of the Loyola College Review which will be distributed this week. We are indebted to Father Horatio P. Phelan, S.J. for this historical work. Our Jubilee celebrations began with the Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving this morning and will be completed during the second half of September.

Enrollment: At the end of Loyola's fiftieth year, it is gratifying to report a total enrollment of 925 full-time and 60 special students. Of these 396 are in the College, 589 in the High School; 208 are resident students, 783 non resident students. The total of 925 full-time students for the current year includes an increase of 198 or 26% over 1945 and an increase of 492 or 114% over 1940.

English Catholic Education in Montreal: In recording Loyola's striking growth, allow me to offer my congratulations to those responsible for the English-speaking Catholic educational system of Montreal and to their staff of devoted teachers. We are fully convinced that no higher education can be complete without a solid grounding in Catholic Philosophy and no Science Course adequate without at least some cultural subjects. We believe that education among

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English-speaking Catholics of this city will not be what it should be until the standards and curricula of both Elementary and High Schools are efficiently coordinated with the standards and courses of the level immediately superior and the System forms a well-rounded whole without lacunae and without duplications. Only then will the directives of the Sovereign Pontiff and the frequently expressed wishes of our revered Archbishop be fulfilled.

Studies: Both examination results and the general sense of student responsibility testify to the satisfactory condition of studies in the College. During the year there were 134 students in the various classes of the Arts Course; and in Science 113 full-time and 60 part-time students.

Veterans: Our first Veterans' Refresher Course, with more than 90 students, was completed a few weeks ago. The published examination results testify to the unusually good success of our candidates. Two more courses for Veterans began today: a Junior Matriculation Refresher Course and a Senior Matriculation Course divided into Arts, Science and Commerce. More than 170 returned men registered for these Courses this morning. Our teaching staff have found the returned men, both in the regular College Courses and in the Refresher Course, serious-minded, energetic and courteous. Our Dean of Veterans has repeatedly stated in public that their classes are "a veritable teacher's Paradise".

Loyola Lectures: Loyola Lectures, an integral part of the College cultural programme, open to the general public, presented this year their Eighth Annual Series of Lectures. It comprised ten lectures given by two University

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presidents, one University Dean, three University professors, the Editors of three different leading magazines and a foreign correspondent for the New York Times. These speakers came from widely scattered parts of the United States and Canada.

Father Lord: Father Daniel Lord,S.J. with his Staff of Jesuit professors and their assistants will return to Loyola during the last week of this month for their Fourth Summer School and will offer some fifty courses bearing on various aspects of religious, social and parochial life.

Tribute to teachers: Early in December, a major illness forced Father William X. Bryan,S.J. to relinquish, for a time, his duties as Dean of College Studies. I am happy to report that his doctor will allow him to be with us again for the coming year. For the generous and loyal cooperation of the entire teaching staff under its Acting Dean, Father Henry Smeaton,S.J., I would like to place on record our sincere gratitude and admiration. To our Musical Director, Professor Jean Drouin, who this year completed thirty years of association with the College, may I offer our heartiest congratulations and sincere thanks.

Debates: Our traditional interest in public speaking and debating continues. In the Inter-University Debating League, after defeating Bishops University and being defeated by Ottawa University, our team yielded on points to McGill University as finalists for the Eastern Division of the League.

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Dramatics: Early in May the Dramatic Society presented, with characteristic finish and distinction, Morna Street's play "Traitors' Gate", a three act drama based on the last eighteen months of St. Thomas More's life.

News: Our College newspaper, "The Loyola News", appeared regularly every second week throughout the academic year except during the examination months. Its entire staff deserve the highest commendation for their work.

Spiritual organizations: The flourishing condition of their many spiritual organizations: the Sodality of Our Lady, the League of the Sacred Heart, St. John Berchmans Society and the Knights of the Blessed Sacrament, evinces clearly the healthy religious life of Loyola students.

Athletics: After an absence of six years, College athletics have returned to the Campus. Our College football team finished second in the 1945 Intermediate Intercollegiate invitation series. Our Senior Hockey team won the championship of the newly established Interprovincial Senior Intercollegiate Hockey League. For the first time College Basketball was recognized as a Major Sport at Loyola and we entered a team in the Intercollegiate League. Our Senior High School Football team were finalists for the City Championship and our Bantam Football team remain City Champions and undefeated for the third successive season. Our swimming team won its second consecutive City Championship and successfully defended the Provincial Senior Speed Trophy. In the Intercollegiate Ski Championships our Ski Team won second aggregate place in a field of five colleges, ~~and our individual skiers placed first in the Cross-country, Down-hill and Slalom.~~ To replace the tennis courts, forcibly abandonned through the

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construction of the Central Building, we were fortunate in having four excellent new courts built for us close to the College Stadium.

C.O.T.C. The Loyola Contingent C.O.T.C. has a present Unit strength of 407 all ranks. Lt.-Col. Vincent Walsh,D.S.O., a Loyola graduate of the Class of 1933, assumed command on March 1st of this year. He is the second Loyola alumnus and the first officer trained and commissioned in the Unit to hold that post. Among other Loyola men who have returned to active strength with the Unit are Major Eugene Hankey,M.B.E. as Second-in-Command, Major John Brayley,M.C., Capt. Edward O'Toole,M.C., Capt. John Kastner and Capt. David Ledoux. Two others have been assigned to the permanent A & T Staff: Capt. Kevin Kierans,M.C. as Adjutant and Capt. Elmer Lanthier as Training Officer. We are happy to have Colonel Walsh and his associates with us again and willingly pledge the fullest cooperation of the College Faculty with their work. To Lt.-Col. Thomas Guerin,O.B.E.,M.L.A., the retiring Commanding Officer, Major Denis Inwood, his Second-in-Command and Capt. G. Herbert Cook, the Adjutant and Training Officer, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for their excellent work during the difficult war years.

War Record: There is no need to repeat the facts of Loyola's splendid war record. Allow me only to state how happy we are to have with us as special guests on the stage this evening and representative of that large body of Loyola men who served with the Armed Forces: Air Vice Marshal Victor Walsh,C.B.E. of the Class of 1908, Colonel Frank Fleury,M.B.E. of the Class of 1935,

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Colonel Gavan Power of the Class of 1929, Lt.-Colonel Vincent Walsh, D.S.O. of the Class of 1933 and H/Squadron Leader the Reverend Henry Smeaton, S.J. of the Class of 1921.

Alumni: I would like to extend the congratulations of both Faculty and College to His Excellency, Archbishop Gerald Murray, C.SS.R. of the Class of 1905, who assumed the duties of Archbishop of Winnipeg on May 23rd last; to Father Thomas Bracken of the Class of 1917, and Parish Priest of St. Gabriel's Parish of this city, who celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination on May 26th of this year; to Mr. John D. Kearney, K.C. of the Class of 1916 who was recently transferred from the post of Canadian High Commissioner to Eire to the office of Canadian Minister to Norway; and to the Loyola alumni ordained priests during 1945: Fathers Royden Thoms and George Robitaille of the Montreal Archdiocese; Father John Forrest Galvin, O.F.M., and Fathers Lester Carroll, William Daly, William Mackey, Robert McDougall and John McCarthy of the Society of Jesus.

Deaths: During the year death claimed Father Francis C. Smith, S.J., a member of the Class of 1917 and a notable benefactor of the College. Through Father Smith's generosity, the Loyola College Chapel was built in memory of his parents in 1932-1933. Other alumni who died recently include Father Albert Lortie, O.M.I., Dr. John J. Heagerty, M.D., a former Director of Public Health Services for the Dominion Government, Mr. John J. Meagher, K.C. and Mr. J. de Gaspé Audette, K.C. Brother David Maloney, S.J., who served on the College Staff continuously since 1917, died ten days ago. Arthur Halley, a leading member of this year's graduating class, died last Friday morning after an illness of three weeks.

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His funeral was held in the College Chapel last Saturday and his body is now being brought to Newfoundland. His father has established a scholarship in his memory. The annual masses for Loyola's dead were sung on November 8th and 9th, 1945.

Building: Since Convocation last year the Science Laboratories of the College have been considerably enlarged and completely remodelled under the supervision of Father Ronald MacKinnon,S.J. Work on the completion of the Central Building started today.

Mothers' Guild: The Loyola Mothers' Guild, an organization established for the dual purpose of promoting understanding and cooperation between parents and teachers in their joint responisbility of education and to assist in making student life at College as home-like as possible, held a very successful year.

Word to Graduates: And now a word to you, my dear Graduates of 1946. Through years of patient effort and anxious watching, we have done what we could to assist you develop both what is divine and what is human within you - the life of the Christian and the life of the cultured gentleman. We have seen you mature slowly to what your degree parchment testifies you have become - graduates, the end product of a long and carefully elaborated process. Many persons have contributed to the polishing of this product: your family, friends, teachers and the accumulated wisdom of the centuries. But the use you, in your freedom, choose to make of what you are and what you have acquired, can alone determine the ultimate success of the process. The responsibility, in the

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the last analysis, is your own, and can be carried by no one else. In presenting you this evening to receive one of her degrees, Loyola bears witness to her faith and her confidence in you. Face the future with resolution and high courage. Keep clear and fresh the Christian ideals you have learned to value. To all of life's problems apply fearlessly the sound principles you have been taught, and you will walk among men, and before God, with honour and dignity and love.